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USJ CELEBRATES EXCEPTIONAL COLLEGE STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

Meet the USJ 2021 Undergraduate Award Recipients

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. (April 30, 2021) – USJ's annual undergraduate awards recognize student accomplishments in a variety of academic areas, and shine a spotlight on their dedication and commitment to scholarship. While the USJ community couldn't come together in person to celebrate these students, each student was able to accept the award in person with President Free, Provost Kalis, and the student's Dean. The University of Saint Joseph today released the list of the 2021 Undergraduate Award recipients.

"We set high standards for our students and they were undaunted by the challenges of a global pandemic in achieving their own academic, professional, and personal goals," said Provost Michelle Kalis, Ph.D. "We join the families of these students in applauding their commitment to academic excellence and scholarship and look forward to celebrating their successes in the future."

These exceptional students, who strive for academic excellence and leadership, were selected to receive honors this year:

School of Arts, Sciences, Business, and Education – Dean Raouf Boules, Ph.D.

Biology

Sr. Maria Benigna Johnson Founders' Award*: Michaela Romie

Sr. Mary Consuela Mulcahy Founders' Award*: Sophia Marler

Biology Leadership Award: Elizabeth Strout

Business Administration

Sr. Mary Joseph Mark McGurkin Founders' Award*: Filamena Vukaj

Sr. Eileen MacIlvain Award: Bradford Jameson Landry

Wall Street Journal Student Achievement Award: Percy Chen

Chemistry

Sr. Mary Consilia Hannan Founders' Award*: Emily Matukaitis

American Chemical Society Analytical Chemistry Award: Corinna Cabral

CRC Press General Chemistry Achievement Award: Ayesha Nazir American Chemical Society

Organic Chemistry Award: Maria Sophia Padilla

American Chemical Society Outstanding Senior Organic Chemistry Award: Lauren Lewicki

Connecticut Valley Section of the American Chemical Society Award: Lauren Lewicki

American Institute of Chemists Foundation Award: Lauren Lewicki

American Chemical Society Undergraduate Award in Physical Chemistry: Timothy Moy

Culture, Arts, and Languages

Sr. Mary Irene O'Connor Founders' Award*: Marielle Juliette LeFebvre
Art History Award: Alicia Smith
Dance Award: Nicole Aquavia
Music Award: Marielle Juliette LeFebvre
Studio Art Award: Wendy Gaudiosi
Dr. Jorge Casals Book Award: Emily Marie Luna

Education/Special Education

Sr. Mary Consolata Blake Founders' Award*: Grace Sheldon
Barbara Lake McKillop Award:

- Catherine Baum
- Mackenzie Wilson

Professional Practice Award in Special Education: Anna Chevarella
Teacher Certification Program Achievement Award in Secondary Education: Amanda Thiel

English

Sr. Maria Ancilla Sullivan Founders' Award*: Samantha L. Brey
Queenes Company Award: Matthew J. Plona

History and Society

Sr. Mary Agatha Walsh Founders' Award*: Joseph Islam
Sr. Mary Rose deLima Nolan Founder's Award: Jazaira Perez-Acevedo
History Department Recognition of Achievement Award: Lily Stilson

Mathematical Sciences

Dora and Antonio Iadarola Award: Nicole Martula
Elizabeth Markham Award: Noah Fitzgerald
Mathematics Senior Award:

- Amanda Thiel
- Megan Burke

School of Interdisciplinary Health and Science – Dean Betsy Francis-Connolly, Ph.D.

Human Development and Family Studies

Sr. Mary deLourdes Kenny Founders' Award*: Abigail Horner
The Book Award for Excellence in Child Study: Alessandra Milardo

Nursing

Professional Practice Award in the Undergraduate Clinical Nursing Practice:

- Ololade Adeyemi
- Amanda Pelletier

Nightingale Award in Undergraduate Nursing: Jillian Smith

Outstanding Scholastic Achievement Award: Leigh Hrinda

Peer Leadership Award in Undergraduate Nursing Leadership: Ololade Adeyemi

CT League for Nursing Peer Recognition Award in Undergraduate Nursing: Alexis Wainer

Nutrition

The Sallie Rorer Award for Excellence in Nutrition and Dietetics: Hanna Pryhazhayeva

Psychology

Rene Bouchard Award for Excellence:

- Shaniyah Williams
- Nicole Aquavia

Maureen Travis Research Award: Nathair Spencer

Tonya Rondinone Writing Award: Tamara Chuchro

Public Health

Dr. Sara Josephine Baker Award for Excellence in Public Health: Samantha Lamkins

Social Work & Equitable Community Practice

Antonia Pantoja Award: Maria Holgado-Zuniga

Carol E. Gourlie Award in Social Work Field Practice:

- Shannon Michelson
- Xaviera Davis

Outstanding Academic Achievement and Community Engagement in Social Work: Samantha Nunes

Academic Affairs

Beth Bye Early Childhood Education Award: Mikaila Masterson

Symposium Day Award: Lauren Lewicki

Award for Excellence in Peer Writing Tutoring and Academic Leadership: Hanna Pryhazhayeva

Award for Excellence in Peer Content Tutoring: Hanna Pryhazhayeva

Writing Portfolio Excellence Award:

- Ololade Adeyemi
- Shenelle Anderson
- Nicole Aquavia
- Megan Burke
- Brittany Damone
- Hannah DeMaio
- Deanna Humennyj
- Sarah Lew
- Rachell Maldonado
- Merin Mary Mathews
- Emily McAllister
- Michaela Romie
- Mallory Schultz
- Nathair Spencer

Cook Scholar Award:

- Mercedes Gapko
- Merin Mary Mathews
- Krystine D. Oliveira
- Michaela Romie
- Shaniyah Williams

Honors Award:

- Shenelle Anderson
- Nicole Aquavia
- Samantha Brey
- Megan Burke
- Corina Cabral
- Dylaney Cianci
- Rochelle Clarke
- Symantha Fazzino
- Kristen Frank
- Lexis Lewis
- Daniela Magalhaes
- Maria Nguyen
- Jess Repass
- Michaela Romie
- Hanna Silverwatch
- Kensington Vanhouten
- Shaniyah Williams
- Jamie Wyman

Student Affairs Awards - Leadership, Service and Scholar Athlete Awards

Campus Ministry Award: Alexis Wainer

Cardarelli Senior Scholar Athlete Award: Alessandra Milardo

Blue Jay Senior Student Athlete Award: Alise Martel

Nancy Spada Leadership Award: Aminah Tsonga

Dedication to Student Activities Award: Joseph Colaccino

Kappa Gamma Pi: Ololade Adeyemi

Sr. Mary Theodore Kelleher Award in Leadership: Jessica Marcos

Sr. Mary Rose McDonough Award in Relationship of Learning to Life: Iyanna Harris

The Saint Catherine Medal: Anna Hendrickson

*Founders' Award: Since 1969, the University has presented awards in honor of the University's Founding Sisters and is proud to continue in the tradition of encouraging the University of Saint Joseph students to strive for academic excellence and leadership.

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The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) offers a wide range of coeducational undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and certificate programs that combine a professional and liberal arts education with opportunities for mentored research, community service, clinical field work, and internships. Programs are taught on the University's two campuses in West Hartford and Hartford, Connecticut; at off-campus locations throughout the state; and online. Founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy, the University of Saint Joseph offers degrees with value and values. To learn more, view our website at www.usj.edu.

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